

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /089 W
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R 092139Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3926
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17092

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, AO, FR
SUBJ: UNREST IN ANGOLA

1. DURING JUNE 8 DISCUSSION OF ANGOLA, THE ASSISTANT TO AFR/CAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR OF THE QUAI (HAREL) NOTED THAT THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE FRENCH CHARGE IN LUANDA MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DO THE KIND OF REPORTING WHICH WOULD GIVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT IS GOING ON. THIS BEING SAID, THE FRENCH BELIEVE THAT ALVES PROBABLY REPRESENTS A POPULAR CURRENT IN ANGOLA, AT LEAST IN THE LUANDA AREA. ALVES AND HIS FOLLOWERS ARE VIEWED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA'S BLACK, POOR, AND ILLITERATE MASSES, WHILE NETO SYMBOLIZES THE MULATTO, WELL-TO-DO
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AND EDUCATED ELITE WHO ABANDONED ANGOLA DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD UHEREAS ALVES REMAINED BEHIND TO FIGHT. NEAR FAMINE IN LUANDA AND THE FACT THAT NETO GAINED AND STAYS IN POWER THANKS ONLY TO THE UNPOPULAR CUBAN TROOPS CONTRIBUTE TO THE REGIME'S PROBLEMS. IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE REGIME ALSO WEAKEN IT.

2. THE FRENCH HAVE A REPORT CONSIDERED RELIABLE THAT A CLOSE FRIEND OF ALVES WAS IN CONTACT WITH SAVIMBI AT THE TIME OF THE ABORTIVE COUP. PARTLY ON THAT BASIS HAREL SPECULATED THAT A VICTORY OF ALVES MIGHT HAVE LED TO A RECONCILIATION WITH SAVIMBI.

3. HAREL SAID THE QUAI HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS HESITATED DURING THE TROUBLES WHILE THE CUBANS IMMEDIATELY BACKED NETO. HE ASCRIBED THE SOVIETS' EQUIVOCAL POSITION TO THEIR GROWING REALIZATION THAT THEY ARE SUPPORTING AN UNSTABLE, NOT REALLY AFRICAN REGIME THE CHARACTER OF WHICH OTHER AFRICANS ARE BEGINNING TO RECOGNIZE. "THIS IS GOOD FOR US," HE ASSERTED.
GAMMON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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